

Digiti-Lingua:

O R,

The most compendious, copious, facile, and secret way of silent Converse ever yet discovered.

Shewing, how any two persons may be capable, in half an hours time, to discourse together by their Fingers only, and as well in the dark as the light.

The Directions herein given are so clear, and the Method so extensive, (yet both superlatatively easie) that if six persons are in company, (and each of them well versed in the design) yet two of them may discourse together, and the other four wholly ignorant of what they mean.

By a person who has conversed no otherwise in above nine Years.

The Figures curiously Engraved on Copper Plates.

*Pulchrum est Digito Monstrari & Dici-
cior hic est.* *Perfius.*

L O N D O N,

Printed for P. Buck, at the sign of the Temple
near the Inner-Temple-Gate in Fleet-Street, 1698.



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7.

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The first condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

The second condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

The third condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

The fourth condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

The fifth condition is that
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certain age and of a
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The sixth condition is that
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The eighth condition is that
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certain age and of a
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The ninth condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

The tenth condition is that
the book should be of a
certain age and of a
certain value.

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Digiti-Lingua :

O R,

The most compendious copious, facile, and secret way of silent Converse ever yet discovered.

HAVING been obliged (thro' an unfortunate impediment) to these, or some such like methods of Converse, for now near ten years last past, I have diverse times endeavoured to render the way of expression

A 2

more

more facile, and less burthensome to the memory, as well as more brief and copious both in respect of time in which a word may be expressed, and also of the figurative letters which represent a word; and having now (in my own judgment) brought it to as convenient a period as I well can, I here present the World with it: To whose censure or approbation I leave it.

I am sensible there hath of late been published a pretty piece of Ingenuity, intituled *Sermo Mirabilis*, wherein the Author undertakes (by his Book I mean) to learn a person, so as to be capable to discover his mind to his Mistress, or his Friend, and requires but six hours time for apprehending

prehension, In which time I truly believe it may be done, and must own it as my own private opinion, that few people would have patience to sit six hours together, upon no other business, than purely to learn an Alphabet.

The reason why I judge my method more facile in attaining, and less burthensome to the memory, is, because in matters of small moment, to me nothing seems to affect the memory more than sight: Now the Gentleman having contrived most of the Consonants about the Head, which the person expressing can never see, there must certainly be some small time allowed for recollection, that Nose begins
 with

with (n) Mouth with (m) and so of the rest ; whereas these Alphabets of mine, depending only on the two hands, the person learning sees every significative figure he makes ; the often seeing of which, as well as the often doing so, greatly helps towards impressing it on the memory.

Neither do I perceive how this Gentleman makes his Alphabet more difficult to an indifferent person, by pointing to two several places for one letter, since his general rule is, that, that part of the Head or Body represents such a letter as the name of such part begins withal, he says, point to Arm for (a) or to Elbow for (e) and omit pointing to the Thumb

Thumb and Fore-finger for those two vowels, render it more unintelligible to a third person, who is acquainted with his Alphabets, which I cannot apprehend, unless he had designed two other letters to be represented by the top of the Thumb and Fore-finger ; because, I say, pointing often to the Arm (as in discourse is unavoidable) and not at all to the Thumb, any Person (observing his general rule) might perceive the mutation, and thereby render it every whit as plain, as without alteration, according to his instructions. I cannot but believe (for the reason before given) it is easier by far to understand what is said than to express it, if the several parts are pointed

pointed to but slowly ; and indeed I think his way will not allow of so swift an ocular apprehension, (unless a Man knows where his Eye may meet a Letter) by reason of the distance of the parts pointed to , as these Alphabets of mine where the Eyes are continually confin'd to so small a compass as about one hand.

All that possibly can be done by the directions given in *Sermo Mirabilis*, may more quick, free, and easily be done, by the Alphabets here delivered, and much more : For two persons can never discourse by those letters, unless they see each others Arms, Hands, Head and Body ; and that perfectly too. whereas by
 my

my Alphabets nothing is required but the Hands, which in case of urgent necessity may be held over anothers Head, or the person thus expressing, may put his hands behind him, his Friend standing at his back ; nay, a hundred other conveniencies there are, that Arms, Head and Body will never admit of, which any person using these Alphabets will soon discover.

However, for more perspicuous demonstration sake, I think it may not be amiss in this place to subjoyn a supposition or two, which when rightly apprehended, will as well make way for many more of the like nature, as superlatively convince the unprejudiced World, that nothing

B

of

of this sort yet published can justly claim a parity, with the Methods here laid down, in respect of their secrecy, pleasure, and conveniency.

In the first place, therefore I will suppose an honourable and agreeable contraction, of an inviolable friendship between two persons, (whether of the same or different Sex, I judge it not material to my matter in hand to distinguish) who are both very well versed in one or both of these Alphabets, which many or most of their Friends and Acquaintance may discern; and so perhaps these two Friends, (tho' they know they can discourse together, without any Friends understanding, who I now suppose

pose to be in company) yet because they cannot do it without their knowledgethatthey are communicating, they, out of a piece of breeding and gentility totally decline it, because, for a very true reason (though a very ill one, if the same thing at the same time may bear both those contrary Titles), *viz.* The company being ignorant what the two Friends say, that troublesome Fiend jealousy, may suggest nocent or dishonourable inclinations, (especially if of two different Sexes) when in reality it may only be a meer thought, a slight piece of raillery, or a thing of no manner of concern or moment. But some people are so cursedly bewitched, and by this

Foe to all Quietude, that they no sooner perceive a whisper but they proclaim a Plot. 'Tis what the fair Sex are too often undeservedly charged withal. Now if such jealous persons were in company (as sometimes may happen) and either of the two friends any dependance upon them, I think it great folly this way to disoblige them, which may be avoided, and one friend disclose his mind to the other, without the least perceivance of any in company, by the use of either of these Alphabets, in this manner, let the person to whom the other is disclosing, but dispose one of his hands out of the company, as to be hid with his Hat, put behind him, under a Table, or other-

otherwise, as conveniency best offers, so that the person about to disclose stand or sit next him, or can well reach his hand without notice taken by the Company : Complying with this caution, one Friend may discover his mind to the other with all the secrecy imaginable, by making the same Figures on and about his Friends hand, as he could on his own hand if his Friend saw him, because this way the Person to whom spoke, apprehends as well in the dark by feeling, as if he saw the same Figures in the light. Thus in the most private manner, and by stealth, can a man make assignation to meet his friend, promise to renew a Visit, ask Counsel, give Ad-

Advice, &c. without the least suspicion of the sharpest overlooker ; nay, one of the two friends may look a third person earnestly in the face, as seeming intent on what discourse entertains the Company, and indeed minds only what his silent friend and himself are mutually conversing about on each others Fingers. I believe I have by this time furnished a witty head, with ways enough to disclose a secret as private as secrecy itself.

Furthermore, any two persons may discourse Riding or Walking, and so that not to be observed by any Persons meeting or passing by.

But

But as a Crown to the conveniency and pleasure in this way of Converse, let me mention the facility in learning the method here delivered, which is easily done in the space of half an hour, ordinarily while a Pipe is smoaking, or the Cloath taking away. And I can most truly affirm I know some great persons, who, after this my manner, can express any thing sooner by their Fingers, than the most skilful Artist can by his Pen and Ink, provided he write in words at length.

I forbear to relate any pleasant accidents happening by the use of these Alphabets, because I make use of them *Tam Necessitate Quam Diverfione.*

Since

Since there is no word but is made up of one or more Vowels, the Vowels consequently come about oftner than any five Consonants, wherefore let the Thumb and Four fingers of the left hand, touched by the top of the Fore-finger of the right hand, represent the five Vowels, a e i o u. viz. the top of the Thumb a. the Fore-finger e. the Middle-finger i. the Ring-finger o. and the little Finger u. as by the Figure.

The



The Consonants are thus decipher'd.

The fore-finger and
thumb of the left-hand
put together, } B

The four fingers bent
in towards the palm of
the hand, } C

The thumb and fore-
finger of the left-hand
joyned by the fore-fin-
ger of the right-hand, } D

C

The

The fore-finger of the
right hand laid on the
back of the 4 fingers
of the left hand, } F

The two Fists joyned, } G

Draw the fore-finger
of the right hand quite
along the middle of
the left hand, } H

Touch the Nail of
the middle finger of
the left hand, } I conson.

Draw the fore-finger
of the right hand
quite along the back
of the left hand, } K

Lay the fore-finger
of the right hand on
the knuckles of the
left, } L

Put

Put 3 fingers in the } M
palm of the hand,

Put 2 fingers in the } N
same manner,

Put the fore-finger of } P
the right hand between
the fore and middle
finger of the left,

Turn the top of the } Q
fore finger of the left
hand to the bottom
of the thumb of the
same hand,

Lay the fore finger of } R
the right hand semi-
circularly in the palm
of the left,

Encircle the thumb } S
of the left hand with
the fore-finger of the
right,

Touch the side of the
left hand with the fore
finger of the right, } T

Touch the nail of the
little finger of the left } U conson.
hand,

Put two fingers on
the little finger of the } W
left hand,



























Lay the 2 fore-fin- } X
gers across,

Touch the bottom of
the hand long ways } Y
with the fore finger
of the right hand,

Make the figure of
the letter in the palm } Z
of the hand,

Not-



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
							
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
							
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
							
<p><i>Note for (H) and (K) let the Finger be brought from the Part where it is set to the end of the direct Line within and without the Hand.</i></p>			Y	Z	<p><i>Place this in Page 19.</i></p>		
							

Notwithstanding I have so largely and plainly described the form of every significative Figure, I have, that the whole Alphabet might be viewed at once, caused these Figures to be here set in their Alphabetical Order, as may be perceived.

Now nothing can be easier, (when any person views the whole twenty six Figures) than to make such and such signs by his fingers at first sight, as (according to these rules) represent such and such letters as make up the word he would express, This, I say, must be as facile, as for a skilful Musician to play off a Tune at sight, or as if, out of the twenty six letters, there literally set over their respective

re.

representative Figures, I were with a Pen and Ink to take AND for and, so likewise of any other word.

But this I think good to advise, that whosoever desires to be a proficient in this silent Language, ought to be able to express the whole Alphabet in their Alphabetical Order, (laying aside these instructions) as absolutely perfect before they pretend to discourse, as a Boy ought well to make his letters, before he essays to write words.

But now it may be objected, if three men buy three of these Books, and make use of the same Alphabet, they must undoubtedly alike apprehend, which

I grant to be true ; but to make my words good, I here present the world with another Alphabet, and shall anon shew the pleasure and commodity of them both together.

Let the top of the four fingers and the Thumb signifie the five Vowels, a e i o u. beginning at the little finger for a. and so backwards, as by the following figure.

The



The Consonants I thus dispose.

The same that (d) is } B
in the other Alphabet,

The same that (r) is } C
in the other Alphabet,

Joyn the 2 thumbs } D
and 2 fore-fingers,

Cross the Wrist with } F
the fore-finger,

Put the two Fists } G
one upon another

Draw

(23)

Draw the fore-finger }
round the hill of the } H
thumb, }

The same that (f) is }
in the other Alphabet, } K

The fore-finger of }
the right hand laid } L
within the fingers of }
the left, }

The same as in the }
other Alphabet, } M N

The fore-finger of }
the right hand put be- } P
tween the fore-finger }
& thumb of the left, }

Encompas the fore- }
finger of the right }
hand with the fore-fin- } Q
ger and thumb of the }
left, }

The same that (b) is }
in the other Alphabet, } R

D

Joyn

Joyn the 2 little fin- }
gers cros ways, } S

Lay the fore-finger
of the right hand di- }
rectly acroſs the palm } T
of the left hand, }

Touch the thumb }
nail, } U conſon.

Put all the fingers o- }
ver one another almoſt } W
croſs, }

Connex the knuckles X

Put the fore-finger &
thumb of the right }
hand to the ſide of } Y
the left hand, }

As in the other Al- }
phabet, } Z

But for greater eaſe to the
memory I have cauſed theſe Sig-
nificative Figures to be ſet here
in their Alphabetical order that
they may be at once veiwed. If

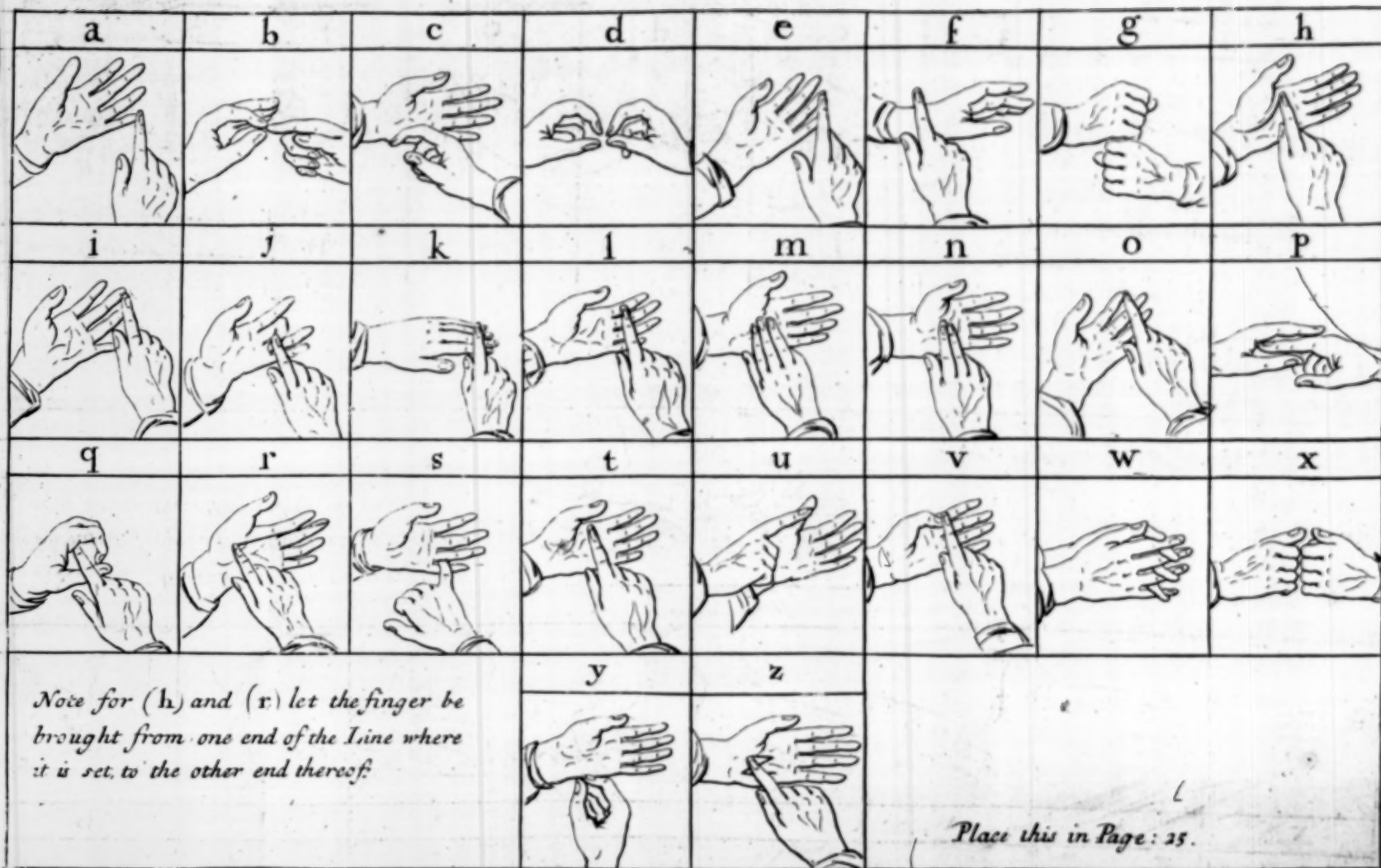
(25)

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If the instructions given to the former Alphabet are rightly understood, there needs none to this, because reason dictates the same use. Now I would say by this Alphabet, *Good Morrow Sir*, which is thus done.

The two Fists upon }
each other. } G

Two fingers put up- }
on the fore-finger of } oo
the left hand, } ow

Two thumbs and 2 }
fore-fingers joyned, } d

Which being put together make
Good.

When the word is ended point directly into the middle of the hand, which notation must be given at the end of every word again.

Three fingers in the }
middle of the hand, }^m

Top of the fore-finger }
2 fingers drawn along }
the middle of the hand }^{rr}

Top of the fore-fin- }
ger as before, }^o

Fingers cross ways }
over one another. }^w

Then again the Notation

Two little fingers }
cross ways, }^s

Top of the middle }
finger, }ⁱ

Along the inside of }
the left hand, }^r

Then the Notation.

Which being bore in memory
make *Good morrow Sir.*

But if it should so happen that
two persons are conversing to-
together by the use of either of
these

these Alphabets, and suspect a third person to apprehend, 'tis but exchanging five or more Letters in an Alphabet. and they can never make Head or Tayl of it, of which intentions any Man may acquaint his Friend by a whisper or otherwise. As for Example, you would say by this Alphabet *Sir your Servant*, which in words at length will be thus.

2 little fingers cross ways, S

Top of the middle finger i

Along the inside of the hand, r

The point in the middle of
the hand the notation.

Then again, Fore-finger and
thumb to the side of the hand, y

Top of the fore-finger o

Top of the thumb, u

Along the middle of the hand, r

Then the Notation. Again,

Again, 2 fingers cross ways,	S
Top of the ring finger,	c
Along the middle of the hand,	r
Thumb Nail,	v
Top of the little finger,	a
2 fingers in the palm,	n
Draw the fore-finger di-	}
rectly down the middle of	
the hand,	

Then the Notation:

But now I will suppose that you have agreed to take the Vowels as in the other Alphabet, and exchange *r* in this Alphabet, for *r* in the other Alphabet, which is *c* in this, and for *c* in this Alphabet you will take *k* in the other alphabet. You must thus begin then.

Two little fingers cross ways	S
Top of the middle finger	i
Fore-finger semicircularly in	}
the palm of the hand,	

Now any indifferent person that understood both Alphabets would think that you were about to say sick, or some other word with more letters after the(r) which is(c) in this Alphabet, or else when he sees the period at the end of (c) in this Alphabet, tho to your self and friend it signifies(r) He concludes you speak Latin, or make some mistake in the letters when the truth is, he himself is in error.

But thus exchanging 5 or 6 letters in an Alphabet, in many words they will be found so often to reiterate, that a stander-by (tho acquainted with the method) shall apprehend, but in a meer mist, let him be never so expert at it.

However, having here described 2 Alphabets, every person is left to his liberty to make up one for himself and friend out of the 2, that will be as private from all the world, as if they never heard of such an invention, but I think the design here laid down is now made so plain, it needs not further Demonstration.

For an affirmative, point to one Eye.

For a negative, point to the Nose.

But if you neither affirm nor deny, put one finger upon the Eye, and another upon

upon the Nose, which may very well signify I don't know, or indifferent.

And, whereas most of the letters are delimited by the Fore-finger of the right hand, if it happens that you are to express two Letters of the same sort just together, it may be done either by two fingers at once as double (o) double (e) double (i) or any other letter except those that are deciphered by more than the fore-finger of the right hand. or else at twice, as best suits particular Fancies.

Abbreviating the words by these Signs is the same as with a Pen and Ink, because to intimate (*which*) needs no more than the representative Figures of W. C. H. *That*. Y. T. and so of any other word, as the person himself pleases. The throwing out the hand from the body in way of discourse, signifies and.

I heartily wish all Persons may as soon discern the commodity as the use of these Fruits of a few vacant hours.

F I N I S.

